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State of New Jersey

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Mr. David Lochbaum
Nuclear Safety Engineer
Washington Office
Union of Concerned Scientists
1707 H. Street NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20006-3919

August 10, 2001

Subject: July 6, 2001 Letter from D. Lochbaum, Union of Concerned Scientists to Dr.
Lipoti, NJ DEP.

Dear Mr. Lochbaum:

Thank you for your letter dated July 6, 2001 on behalf of the 104 organizations that comprise the UNPLUG Salem Campaign. Our staff routinely reviews all licensee event reports (LERs) at Oyster Creek, Salem 1, Salem 2, and Hope Creek. As part of our review of LER 272/01-004-00, we evaluated the additional 21 LERs which are outlined. Our assessment concluded that the event described in LER 272/01-004-00 by itself was well explained within the LER and further investigation on our part was not warranted.

However, we are pleased to honor your request for our staff to pay particular attention to the human performance issues at Salem 1 and 2, and Hope Creek. We are in agreement that human performance is a cross-cutting issue which deserves significant attention by the industry and the regulators. Even though the 21 LERs referenced in LER 272/01-004-00 relate to events that occurred over a two year and four month time frame, they represent human factors that warrant further scrutiny by PSEG. The Human Performance Team is working to provide training on human performance fundamentals and techniques, which we believe is a good first step. Since the purpose of the team is to help prevent human errors from occurring, more than training may be necessary. We plan to discuss this further with PSEG.

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Thank you for calling our attention to this particular LER. Our respective organizations share a concern for tracking, trending, and taking aggressive action to prevent human errors.

Sincerely,



Jill Lipoti, Ph. D.
Asst. Director
Radiation Protection Programs
NJ DEP

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